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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

WORDS of WISDOM?: Izak Donnelly, left, and Jesse Roodenburg give the class representatives' address to the Gulf Islands Secondary School Class of 2019 during their graduation ceremony Saturday afternoon.

EDUCATION

SD64 facing budget pressures

SIMS parents ask for more music time

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parents of Salt Spring Island Middle School music students have asked the Gulf Islands School District to reconsider funding choices related to the SIMS music program.

A delegation led by Kim Thompson and Magnolia Paulker at the June 12 SD64 meeting asked the board to increase the music teacher's hours.

A letter sent to district superintendent Scott Benwell that was signed by 63 concerned parents discussed the amount of unpaid hours that current music teacher

Keith Ollerenshaw put into the position, and said that a higher full-time equivalency portion is needed to have a functional music program in the school.

"Simply put, a program built upon such a high number of volunteer hours is not sustainable," the letter reads. "Any program that depends upon unpaid labour to such a degree will not be able to grow, flourish and thrive over time and across the years from middle through high school."

In May, parents were worried about the possibility the hours allotted to music at the middle school would be reduced. Teaching hours are set out in terms of full

time equivalency — with 1.0 being full-time — and allocated based on funding availability, as well as scheduling concerns.

In previous years, the music teacher position has fluctuated between 0.2 FTE and 0.6 FTE. In the 2018-19 school year, the position was set at 0.4 FTE.

The board has confirmed the SIMS music program will stay at 0.4 FTE next year. The board has also honoured a request made by SIMS administration to make the position a continuing one, rather than one that teachers would need to apply for year by year.

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Zen Master Wolfgang says:
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PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
Graduate Hannah Saffel walks down the aisle to take her seat on stage.

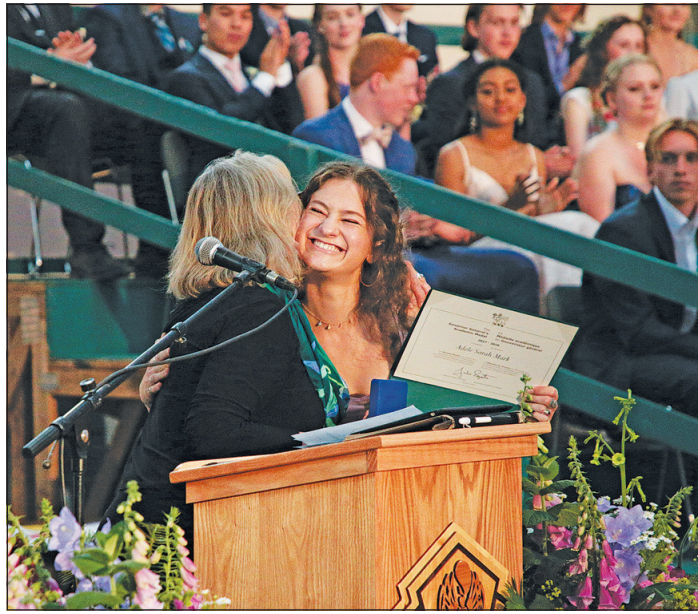


PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
MP Elizabeth May presents Adele Mark with the 2018 Governor General's award.

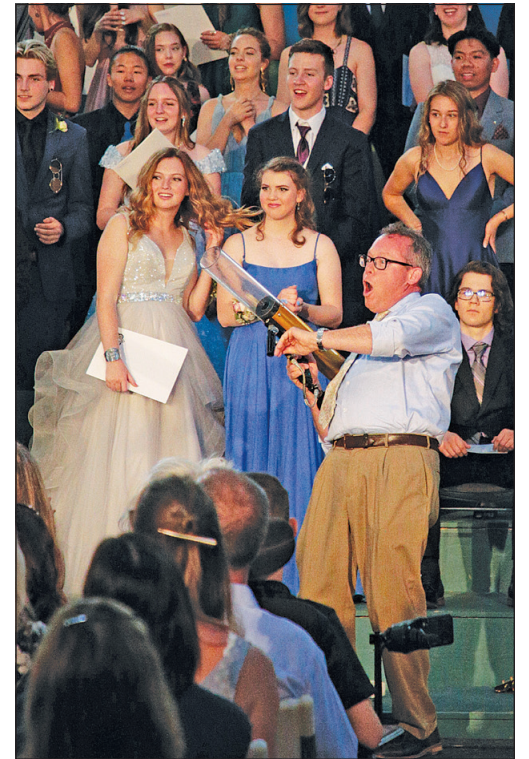


PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
Teacher Jason Donaldson fires a T-shirt cannon into the crowd as part of the address to the graduates.

CLIMATE ACTION

Special meeting shares climate emergency response ideas

Community Alliance and Transition Salt Spring event

The next meeting of the Community Alliance will focus on the personal and collective actions everyone can take in response to the urgent need to address

climate change. Called Take Action Together on the Climate Emergency, the event will explore how people can transform our energy systems, economy, politics and society, and push us towards a more sustainable way of living. Set for Monday, June 24 at Lions Hall

at 7 p.m., attendees will learn about personal actions they can take that will make the most difference, and gain inspiration from each other. "End the overwhelm and isolation that is preventing real solutions and paralyzing you from taking action," suggests a press release from the alliance. "Find those

who want to work with you. Together, we believe it is possible to avert this crisis, and to transform our world in the process." Before attending the meeting people are encouraged to read resources at <http://bit.ly/2QUjPcf> to be informed and connected to some of the climate crisis activities happening on Salt Spring and globally.



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Reconfiguration study to consider new funding model

SD64 continued from 1

Bringing up the teaching hours would give the music program at SIMS more rehearsal time, which parent Kim Thompson explained is important to skill development. "If you don't have two rehearsals per week, the progress is not as tangible for the kids, particularly with beginners who are still trying to get the sound out of their instrument," she said during the meeting. "The learning curve is already steep for something like that, but when you slow down the progress with one rehearsal per week, especially at the pre-teen age where the memory might not be so good, it really feels like stagnation." A drop in enrollment in the SIMS music program will percolate upwards into the high school, Thompson argued. Having less music in the grades before high school could limit the participation in high school programs to students with the ability to enroll in private lessons. The school district is facing a period of

rebuilding after encountering a deficit brought on by an enrollment audit. Approximately 1,500 students are enrolled in the Gulf Islands School District, but it fluctuates each year. Going into 2019-20, the board is expecting it will have fewer 55 enrolled students due to a small kindergarten class and a large outgoing graduating cohort, which will mean a reduction in provincial funding. "This board balances programs across five islands, a unique geographic challenge and the pressures that are inherently on small districts across our province," said superintendent Scott Benwell during the meeting. "Choices need to be made, and those are often very difficult." "The presentation about increasing music and band programs across our district is experienced ... as a pressure," he added. "This year, with diminishing resources, there has been a commitment to maintain [the SIMS music program]." A student rep and a parent who attended the school board meeting also asked why an English

Lit 12 class is not being offered at GISS this coming year. The board explained that not enough students had registered for the class to go ahead. Going into the next five years, the school district will be scaling back operations in an effort to recover from years of financial instability. The board has applied for and been approved for relief funding and hopes to rebuild their surplus funds to protect against future funding challenges. They are predicting a drop in revenue over the next five years, and will be looking to live within the means allotted to the district. "We need to be judicious and strategic as we downsize our system to live within our means and reflect the actual students we have here," Benwell said. "We have some challenges moving forward." The board of education has committed to a reconfiguration study, to be begun in the fall. The study will look at how the district offers its programs, and will take into account a new funding model expected from the provincial government.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Community safety meeting held

A community meeting was held on June 12 to allow islanders to discuss concerns related to safety on the island.

The meeting, held at the library, was a response to the recent incidences of vandalism in the Ganges area. It was organized by island resident Jen Campbell to help create a space for residents to discuss areas of concern. Campbell explained in the meeting that she intends for it to become a regular occurrence, and expressed interest in forming a safety committee.

Formatted as a brainstorming session, attendees were invited to add areas of concern to a whiteboard. These included road safety, safety for youth, RCMP and communications, Ganges vandalism, sexual and physical assault, drugs and alcohol, bullying and homelessness.

A community watch was floated as an idea to help reduce the incidents in Ganges. The Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce is working to organize a similar group from within the business community.

Bus service increase on its way

BC Transit and the Capital Regional District have announced a service expansion for select routes in the Salt Spring transit system along with the regular seasonal service change effective Wednesday, June 26.

BC Transit said it strives to match service with demand. The upcoming service expansion aims to align select routes in the transit system with the weekday service.

The service expansion will include increased Saturday morning service for the Ganges Local, Vesuvius, Long Harbour and Salt Spring Connector routes.

The seasonal change will include reinstatement of service connecting Fulford Harbour with Beaver Point and Ruckle Park for the summer. Schedule changes will match BC Ferries schedules.

For more information on routes, fares, and schedules, see BCTransit.com or pick up the new Rider's Guide.

BC FERRIES

Ferry passengers upset by small boat

Rough first week for Quinitza

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The BC Ferries vessel Quinitza has made few friends during its first week or so in service on Route 6, with an especially bad day experienced by people travelling between Vesuvius and Crofton on Thursday.

Multiple sailing overloads were compounded by a scheduled dangerous cargo sailing and left some passengers heading to Salt Spring to wait three hours in Crofton before getting on a boat.

One of the drivers to get caught up in the traffic was School District 64 bus driver Julianna Slomka, who took a grade one class to the raptors centre outside Duncan for a morning field trip. She described how another, empty school bus had to hold a place in line for the morning trip while she picked up the class. Later that morning when she arrived at Crofton hoping to be in time for the 12:55 sailing home, she was told there wouldn't be room.

"Usually we are parked by the park and the kids can get out, have lunch and play. This time we were way up the road," Slomka wrote on the SSI Community Discussion Forum public Facebook page. "The ferry worker says it's full and the next sailing is dangerous cargo so we will have to wait till the 3:35 ferry. Can you imagine being stuck that long with a busload of kids?"

While the class and their adult attendants were permitted to travel as walk-on passengers, Slomka had to stay with the bus, which left the school district short a bus and a driver for part of the afternoon.

Many other drivers arrived after the dangerous cargo sailing and expected to wait an hour for their ferry but had to wait a couple of sailings instead. By 4:30 p.m. cars were parked all the way up Chaplin Street to the turn-off at Crofton Road heading toward the Shell gas station. Most of those people had to wait for the 7:20 p.m. sailing.

BC Ferries said there was an unusual amount of traffic that day, and as best as they can tell there may have been a "perfect storm." Graduation weekend was one potential cause for extra traffic. Humphries suggested seniors may be taking advantage of discounts in Duncan and the final day of the week's discounted sailings on Thursdays.

"It's certainly not the experience we want our customers to have," Humphries said.

BC Ferries' terminal manager is collecting



PHOTO BY MARV COULTHARD
Cars line up far beyond the BC ferries terminal on Crofton's Chaplin Street for a multiple sailing wait on Thursday afternoon.

data to analyze the situation, she added.

The level of frustration is so great that a new Facebook group has been activated called SSI Ferry Lineup Alert.

"This is a community group designed for Salt Spring residents to let each other know about ferry lineups, waits and other issues as we approach another busy summer and the potentially frustrating delays that go along with the increased loads, etc. Let's use this as a tool to help reduce our summer ferry rage," wrote creator Rebecca Leanne.

Members of the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee were also caught up in Thursday's traffic overloads. Both Peter Grove and Matt Steffich were travelling back to Salt Spring that afternoon and experienced multiple sailing waits. Both were resigned to the situation, however, with knowledge the Quinitza is scheduled to stay on the route into 2022.

Some islanders have wondered why the Bowen Queen, so recently berthed at Fulford, could not be called into service. BC Ferries explained it will be on the Port McNeill-Alert Bay-Sointula route this summer.

"The Quinitza is here. There's no other boat," said Steffich. "It stands to reason they'll get this thing figured out quickly. But it's not going anywhere. This is the boat for the next few years."

"I don't know what the answer is," Grove added. "I think BC Ferries does a pretty good job, generally. The time passed by pleasantly [for me], but I understand the anxiety if you have a medical appointment or another appointment."

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen has reported being bombarded with messages since the Quinitza went into service on the route on June 5, and especially after Thursday's complications. He has asked for people to share their concerns and feedback directly to his email address Adam.MLA@leg.bc.ca and also to copy Transportation Minister Trevena at Claire.Trevena.MLA@leg.bc.ca and [B.C. Ferries](mailto:B.C.Ferries).

"I am aware of this change and the impacts that it is having and I will be requesting more information from BC Ferries next week about the statistics for the leave behinds and the delays," Olsen said.

While the issue with school buses may not be a problem again for some time with the school year ending this month, BC Ferries said the idea of assured loading could be added to the agenda for its next public meeting with the Salt Spring FAC on July 9.

The meeting was rescheduled from its original date on May 17 because BC Ferries executives were unable to get on the ferry to Fulford.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Laundromat spaces explored

Wagon Wheel Housing Society conducts needs survey

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring community members are being asked to participate in an anonymous survey around laundry needs while the Wagon Wheel Housing Society continues to explore possibilities for establishing a facility in Ganges.

Salt Spring has been largely without laundry services since Mrs. Clean Laundromat closed its doors after 25 years in business at the end of February 2016. The lack of publicly accessible facilities spurred weekly protests in Centennial Park in 2018, with islanders turning out to wash their clothes in buckets.

Wagon Wheel Housing Society is an offshoot of the Copper Kettle Community Partnership that is specifically dedicated to finding housing and laundry solutions for low income islanders. Society founder Cherie Geauvreau reports the group has located a site with potential in the downtown area. The volunteers are just waiting for permission to conduct a water supply test to see how much capacity there is for their machines.

In the meantime, the society is compiling information about community need. The deadline to complete the online survey has been extended into July. It can be accessed at <https://ingamichaelsen.typeform.com/to/qIDvQU>.

The Wagon Wheel Housing Society is also collecting donations toward the project. Look for their distinctive collection tins with washing machine windows in local stores.

Public Forum

with Island Health's Board of Directors



Thursday, June 27, 2019
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Fulford Community Hall
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Island Health's board of directors is committed to reporting on progress and hearing from communities. Forum topics include:

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SPORTS

Synthetic turf plan moves ahead

Agreement in principle between school board and soccer association

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District has agreed in principle to partner with the Salt Spring Island Youth Soccer Association to build an artificial soccer field at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The school board agreed to support the project during their June 12 board meeting, provided SSIYSA sources the entirety of the estimated \$2.5 million needed to resurface the lower field. The soccer association will investigate multiple sources for the funding, including community fundraising and potential grant funding from various sources.

In the initial feasibility study approved by the school district in January, the idea was to investigate an artificial turf at the "Hydro field." It was determined the lower field at GISS was more suitable for the project. The layout of the area surrounding the field is better for lighting and construction, and the pre-existing parking lot and change rooms at the high school make it preferable to the middle school.

"Early on in our discussions ... we realized that the high school field was also appropriate for synthetic turf, so we decided to expand the study to include an analysis of both fields," said SSIYSA field improvement committee chair Sean Norgard during the meeting. "We think the lower high school field is the ideal place to upgrade to synthetic turf and lights."

Norgard explained that the lower high school field is currently only useable in the spring. During the summer months, the field often dies from lack of water, and the regrowing process makes it unusable for much of the fall season as well. Other benefits include the potential for growth in the youth soccer programs on Salt Spring,

increased winter soccer training opportunities, and with the proposed lighting upgrades, more evening practices in the winter.

"Basically, in its current state, the lower high school field is not providing much benefit to the school district, the students or the community, but it's still incurring significant maintenance costs," Norgard said.

Synthetic turf fields are made up of polymer grass blades, and surrounded by a drainage medium. Some fields use a recycled tire crumb as the medium. However, the design proposed by the association uses a medium called TPE, a type of plastic that is similar to rubber. Project architect Doug Wournell explained to the board that TPE is used in products like toothbrush handles and baby soothers, and has been proven to have no chemical run-off. The TPE infill will consist of small granules laying between grass blades on the field.

"TPE has been around for 10 years; the oldest field that I've done is six years old," Wournell said. "More and more fields use TPE simply because it has no controversy. If you're going to use something for a baby's soother, it should be safe for a field as well."

Major benefits of artificial fields include water savings, lower maintenance costs and lack of wear and tear. Wournell explained that natural turf can wear out, but artificial turf has unlimited use. Though the synthetic turf will meet its life expectancy after 12 years, Wournell explained that the plastic can be recycled into other products at facilities in California. The TPE infill is re-useable.

"We know they do last about 12 years. UV is the only thing that hurts a field, you can't wear it out by playing on it, but UV is really harsh and eventually causes it to deteriorate," Wournell said.

SSIYSA plans on helping cover the cost of the eventual replacement of the field surface.

No contract has been signed with the school district, as association members will be working with staff to finalize the agreement.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Marina floats prepped for construction

Treated wood is DFO compliant

MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Crews were loading parts of the new Salt Spring Marina dock into the water in Ganges on Thursday afternoon.

The sections included one layer of creosote-treated wood that will be in partial contact with the water. Other layers have been treated with either ammoniacal copper zinc arsenate or chromated copper arsenate. All treatments have been approved by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and are included in the province's guidelines for wood in and around aquatic environments, reports Island Marine Construction representative Corey Johnson.

Johnson explained that without the treatments, the wood would decompose within a year. Though creosote is not banned for use in Canada, current standards indicate that creosote-treated wood must be shaved down to remove all outside traces of the material before being used in the aquatic environment.

The floats for the dock extensions were designed to be environmentally friendly, with a thick sheathing around any polystyrene core to prevent damage from animals. The new dock will also feature steel pilings to prevent any environmental harm, and will have a transparent mesh grating for the walkways to allow natural light to reach the bottom of the water. Constant tension cables will keep the dock stationary in rough water and prevent scouring on the ocean bottom.

Johnson said construction on the marina dock would be ramping up in the next month, and people should expect to see more activity on the dock site in the next few weeks. The dock extensions will be kept in an off-site float location until construction can begin.

The Driftwood reported in November the marina was scheduled to be open on May 1. That deadline was missed because the previously amended lease required further review from the provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

The marina replacement project has been underway for over 10 years. The new structure will be undergoing Green Marine certification with the Georgia Strait Alliance, as required by the Islands Trust.

FUNDRAISER

Tour de Rock cyclists get island training

Centennial Park meet-and-greet planned for June 22

While the Canadian Cancer Society-Cops for Cancer's Tour de Rock ride doesn't take place until September, participants are in full training mode and will be testing Salt Spring's curves and hills this Saturday, June 22.

The annual fundraising event raises money for pediatric cancer research and supports programs for children with a history of cancer. The Tour de Rock team cycles from one end of Vancouver Island to the other, covering 1,000 kilometres and visiting more than 27 generous communities

along the way.

Drivers should be aware that cyclists visiting Salt Spring on Saturday will arrive in two groups to train in different parts of the island. The north team will arrive at Vesuvius at 9:25 a.m. and depart again at 3 p.m. The south team arrives at Fulford at 9:35 a.m. and leaves there at 3:50 p.m.

Islanders can show support for the 2019 Tour de Rock team at the Saturday Market in the Park. Members of the public are invited to take a photo with the team, check out their swag, and make a donation to support children affected by cancer. They will be hosting a table from 2 to 2:30 p.m. and having a team meet-and-greet from 2:15 to 2:35.

For more information, visit tourderock.ca.

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire board gets down to work

Foundation role discussed

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

At Salt Spring Fire Protection District's regular monthly meeting Monday night, Fire Chief Arjuna George reported on a busy month of May for firefighters, and fire board trustees dealt with a deluge of other issues.

George spoke to a May 17 residential structure fire on Thomas Road, noting that following the 4:37 am fire call, first on scene was at 4:45 am.

"There were 61 total calls for assistance in May, consistent with a five year upward trend in May incidents," George said.

George reported the fire department has asked the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to consider adding a Wildfire Hazard Development Permit Area within the Salt Spring Official Community Plan, which would consider building construction materials and FireSmart principles. As well, firefighters conducted three test drills, drafting ocean water from Ganges Harbour, in the event of a major event that taxes the Ganges core water distribution system.

Trustees heard from Salt Spring Firefighters Association president Mitchell Sherrin, who said members have committed to invest \$10,000 to maintain the 1926 Republic and 1960 Jeep fire trucks, the latter of which will be at Canada Day Show and Shine. Rob Wiltzen, president of the Salt Spring Fire Rescue Foundation, spoke about helping with fundrais-

ing for a new firehall.

Wiltzen noted the foundation needed direction before starting any fundraising campaign.

Sherrin added, "The foundation has not had guidance from trustees. These are dedicated volunteers and if the foundation is not being utilized, perhaps it should be dissolved."

Board chair Ron Lindstrom said the role of the foundation is to fundraise for items beyond those which are tax-funded.

He added, "The new fire hall advisory working group committee and a priority list of needs will be synched with that."

Needs may emerge out of a strategic priority planning document adopted at the meeting.

Trustees appointed Tony Beck, Neil MacConnell, Bob MacKie and Martin Ogilvie to the fire hall advisory committee in April, and were meeting in camera Monday night to consider more appointees. They also planned to discuss the hiring of a communications and marketing consultant, and a replacement for retiring Chief Administrative Officer Andre Peat. The competition to replace Peat closes on July 5.

"There have been a dozen expressions of interest so far," said Lindstrom. "We will have someone in place late September to early October."

Trustees directed staff to assess the need for the CAO position to be funded beyond the 30-hour work week currently advertised at a sal-

ary range of \$65,000 to \$85,000 per year. They also directed staff to report on creating a fully funded deputy fire chief position.

Trustee Rollie Cook asked for an amendment to SSIFPD's meeting procedures bylaw, which currently allots ten minutes speaking time per issue for a member of the public. Cook moved it be reduced to a single three-minute slot, in keeping with other governing institutions like the Islands Trust, with a written submission allowed. He noted that "to spend 15 minutes on the price of lamb seems diversionary."

At April's meeting, the provision of lamb from Cook's Redwing Farm for the annual dinner for paid on-call members, hosted by the trustees, had been raised as a concern of possible conflict of interest by former trustee Howard Baker. However, a report from CAO Andrew Peat, submitted at Monday's meeting, indicated there was no conflict of interest.

"A conflict of interest arises when a public official has private-capacity interests which could improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities," Peat wrote.

Peat said he had selected the caterer who then sourced their lamb from Redwing Farm, and trustees had no input into any decisions made about the dinner.

Trustees unanimously gave first reading to the three-minute speaking slot for members of the public amendment.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Centennial Park playground design approved

Safety concerns discussed

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Centennial Park playground will have a new look as approved by the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission at their Monday meeting.

Based on public feedback, the playground will include elements for kids from two years to 12 years old. New features will include two rope climbing structures, a swing set, a slide set into the embankment near the park and retainment of the heritage rocking horse. The design incorporates existing trees, and will also add fences and benches near the playground. The project design has received approval from the Salt Spring Island Lions Club, which is helping fund the project along with the Capital Regional District commission.

Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington explained to the commission Monday that although the project is moving forward, a higher than expected budget meant that one of the play structures had been nixed from the final plan. A spinning rope climber called the Global Motion was originally part of the design, but since other structures give kids a chance to climb, the \$65,000 feature was cut. The costs associated with extra drainage, site preparation and depth of the playground surface medium required to help protect kids from falls raised the total project cost.

"When I pull that piece out and really take a look at what we have within the different zones for all of the age groups, we're really not losing much," Ovington said during the meeting. "It would be nice to do more, but unfortunately it comes down to the dollars that are available."

The final budget for the project is approximately \$220,000, and \$245,000 has been allocated for the project, allowing for a contingency. CRD Director Gary Holman committed some Community Works funding for the

project as well. Any money that is not spent from the budget will go back into the Community Works Fund.

Commissioners had questions concerning the security of the playground. After multiple incidences of vandalism in the Ganges area, there were concerns that a new playground would be a prime target. Questions about lighting and sightlines were raised by commissioner John Gauld. Ovington said that lighting was not in the scope of this particular phase of the Centennial Park upgrades.

Safety concerns were echoed by commissioners Jacky Cooper and Darlene Steele. Steele said that "money that we spend on lights and any kind of visual access is well spent, even if it means that something has to give in order to get more security."

However, commissioner Brian Webster pointed out that over the last five years, no notable incident of vandalism has occurred in the park that necessitated a costly repair or insurance claim.

"I'm just hesitant to go maximizing visibility and police presence when we don't have a history of there being significant damage," Webster said. "In other places where there has been significant damage, if I'm not mistaken, in some cases there has been lots of lighting, and in some places there have been cameras."

Steele explained that the concerns were not simply about vandalism, but safety in the park.

"It's a combination of decreasing loitering, deterring vandalism, increasing ordinary people's comfort to go there in the evening and stroll. It's a variety of factors that apply to a downtown venue. I'm not going to say we should get the military in, but it is an issue for us," she said.

Holman asked if cameras and lighting could be easily retrofitted into the design depending on the need, and it was determined that if necessary, that route could be explored in the future.

The commission voted to approve the playground design.



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OPINION



2018 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan)
Bronze - Best Local Editorial | Bronze - Best Front Page | Blue Ribbon - Best All-Round

2018 BCYCN Awards
Gold - Best Feature Series (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best All-Round | Bronze - Best Editorial



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Anxiety education

Most kids breathe a sigh of relief when their school's doors close for the summer.

For some it means the chance to work more hours and save up some money, and for others it's lazy days of beach time and sleeping in.

As adults we envy those carefree months of sunshine. We tend to think that kids have it easy and they'll be in for a rude awakening whenever they're forced to participate in the real world of bills and deadlines. What is not acknowledged or fully understood is how much anxiety and stress many youth actually undergo at school.

The 2013 British Columbia Adolescent Health Survey identified mental health and substance use as particular areas of concern for the Gulf Islands district, based on student surveys. Results showed a much higher rate of binge drinking among Gulf

Islands youth compared to their provincial peers, and more self-identification of mental health conditions including anxiety and depression.

A survey created by local youth that polled 150 fellow Gulf Islands Secondary School students in 2016 also found that teens experience high anxiety and stress in their daily lives.

THE ISSUE:
Youth mental health

WE SAY:
More awareness needed

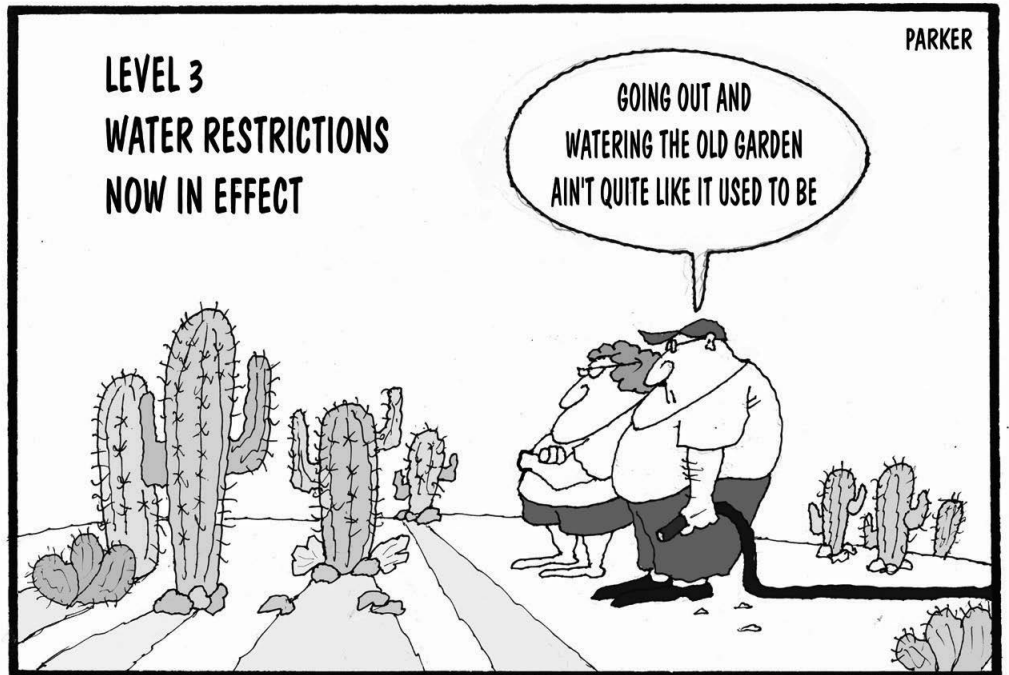
School was listed as the main cause and place where anxiety occurred, although social situations and the home were also high on the list.

Teens are becoming familiar with the language around mental health issues, and local school programs are doing much to break down the stigmas that might prevent youth from seeking the help they need. A daylong, school-wide mental health forum hosted by the GISS leadership program in February 2017 was a fantastic step in bringing much needed information into the open.

There is still work to be done, however. One of the findings of the survey conducted by Mindful Teenagers Affecting Change is that while many youth practise forms of self-care, others don't feel they have a safe space to share their concerns and don't know who to talk to when they need help. A suggestion from the young women who created the survey is that mental health education needs to start much earlier in schools, and that parents and teachers could be trained to become more effective resources.

As we ease into summer let's not forget the stress and anxiety that children feel during school time is real.

We can help by building our own awareness.



Building a brighter future

BY PREMIER JOHN HORGAN

In my travels throughout the province, I get to meet people who have different ideas about what makes B.C. a good place to live. Something that stands out to me is that most people agree on the power of education to change lives.

When I met a young woman named Makayla, the life-changing effects of higher education really hit home. Makayla is strong and determined. She has limitless potential, but she had a tough start in life. Being a former youth in care, Makayla never imagined that one day she'd be studying at university to help kids with backgrounds like her own.

Makayla is one of more than 800 former youth in care who are getting a post-secondary education through our government's new tuition waiver program. For many of these young adults, eliminating tuition is the key to unlocking a future that offers hope and optimism.

Many young people are like Makayla. They dream of a future where they can contribute and make a difference in their own way. They just need a chance. Our government believes in giving people the chance to suc-

VIEWPOINT

ceed. Education helps lift people up by unlocking the opportunity to learn a new skill or trade, get a good-paying job, and pursue their dreams.

I'm deeply proud of the work our government is doing to bring down barriers and make higher education and skills training more accessible and affordable for British Columbians.

For too long, the high cost of post-secondary education stood in the way of people reaching their full potential. That's why one of the first things we did as a new government was to help level the playing field for more British Columbians by making adult basic education and English language learning programs tuition-free. Now, tens of thousands of people can upgrade their skills and pursue a better life.

Education should open doors, not create new roadblocks to getting ahead. We're helping graduates get off to a better start by eliminating interest from B.C. student loans. This means that someone who finishes school with \$28,000 in combined federal and provincial

loans will save about \$2,300 in interest charges over their repayment period. Now, new graduates can worry less about their debt and focus more on building their careers.

Similarly, the price of textbooks shouldn't hold students back from reaching their goals. That's why we're investing in more education resources like open textbooks that eliminate royalty fees and use open copyright licenses to help students access affordable learning tools. About 100,000 students in B.C. have saved as much as \$10 million because of open textbooks.

For people like Makayla, the first step to a brighter future begins when we open the door of opportunity to education. From there, the sky is the limit.

Simply put, helping people succeed is good for B.C. Businesses benefit when they have the skilled workers they need. Communities thrive when more people have good-paying, family supporting jobs. Services that people count on can expand and improve as our economy continues to grow.

Opportunity starts in the classroom, but it opens the door to so much more. Investing in people leads to a better B.C. for everyone.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you support installing an artificial turf field at GISS?
 Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you miss the Howe Sound Queen?
75 YES 42 NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Tuesday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

“If you’re going to use something for a baby’s soother, it should be safe for a field as well.”

DOUG WOURNELL, PLAYING FIELD ARCHITECT

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What are your hopes for the future?

WREN WILDE



I hope that our generation can change the wrongs from the previous generation, and make a better future for our children.

CARLIE ASTON



I hope the Canadian government takes charge of environmental issues.

GABRIEL HARRISON



I want to make a positive impact on the world, especially with the environmental crisis right now.

KAITLYN LAZZAROTTO



I hope to be able to travel and experience new cultures before university.

NADIA SADOUSKI



I hope there is a future, because things aren’t looking so good right now.

LETTERS to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Send your letters to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Let them eat cake

The photo on the front page of your June 12 issue (“Quinita takes on Vesuvius run”) says it all. BC Ferries’ explanation that added sailings on the route will mean around the same daily capacity is provided overall with the Quinita is an interesting spin, but this explanation “takes the cake” so to speak. Capacity at peak times, when it is needed the most, will be reduced due to the smaller capacity of this boat.

PETER HANNAH,
SALT SPRING

cer Association this will have many benefits for the community and the high school.

Currently with changing weather patterns and restricted water, the existing high school field can only be used for a few weeks each year, and sits closed the majority of the year. Converting it to an all-weather turf field will allow use by high school and community teams on the island. It will reduce SD64 watering and maintenance costs, and save water for the island. The project will be fundraised by the soccer association, not the school district. A true community win-win partnership.

MARK ASTON,
Salt Spring

All-weather turf field

Congratulations to the SD64 school board in approving to move ahead on changing the existing high school soccer pitch to an all-weather turf field.

In partnership with the Salt Spring Island Youth Soc-

Promote gentle tourism

Further to Michael Ableman’s guest column (June 12), I would like to remind everybody that many in the Gulf Islands once made a

living logging and fishing, which is no longer possible. Most agreed that arts, crafts and tourism were the way of the future — otherwise the islands would become only a place for the independently wealthy. Gentle tourism like small hotels and private B&B were being promoted instead of massive tourism projects like the “Banff-style” destination resort which had been planned for Galiano’s north end in the 1980s. To ensure housing for locals, rentals by absentee owners was not popular.

In the meantime, local food security has become a priority for many. We’ve seen a growing farming community trying their best to provide much-needed security. Now it’s no secret that this endeavour spells out hard work and relatively little monetary returns. Agri-tourism is the answer for the survival of farmers so that we can pay the bills and keep our prices affordable. We cannot rely only on voluntary help but have to be able to hire workers and pay living

wages. I appeal to our Islands Trust and fellow islanders to reconsider short term vacation rental bylaw enforcement and handle them more sensitively.

VERA ROBINSON,
HOPE HILL FARM

Turf love

Congratulations to the SD64 Gulf Island trustees and the members of the Salt Spring Youth Soccer Association’s field improvement committee for coming to an agreement to build a turf field replacing the grass-based pitch at Gulf Islands Secondary School on Rainbow Road.

This agreement has shown the will and the way forward and so it is up to the Salt Spring community to provide the wherewithal.

Let us as a community follow the Roman poet Horace and “Seize the Day!”

FRASER HOPE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

One normal thing a day: Tips for survival

“Take it one day at a time,” the social worker said, trying to tell me I needed to come up for air. Donald had recently awakened from nine days in a coma, the result of a massive stroke, and was now in the neurological ward at Victoria General Hospital for assessment. His stroke had left him unable to read, write or say much of anything. Not only that, the entire right side of his body was paralyzed; he had neither feeling nor mobility. Our lives had turned upside down, so how could I understand the concept of taking things one day at a time?

“Slow down,” a nurse said to me a few days after Donald’s neurologist had told me there was no hope for improvement, assigning him to long-term care and suggesting he would vegetate until he died. I managed to get him into Lady Minto Hospital; the neurologist had planned on “the first bed” in Victoria. I was determined to be there every step of the way, straining to right the foundering ship of lives and help Donald get better. Meanwhile, I was ready to tear the face off the next person who told me to slow down and take it one day at a time. I had way too much to do to even think about slowing down.

Each morning, I’d go to the hospital to help him eat breakfast and then I’d keep him company until a care aide arrived to do his personal care. It wasn’t long before I was doing his care myself because they couldn’t get to him fast enough to satisfy me. After he had a nap, I would accompany him to his physiotherapy and watch while he learned to eat with his left hand and propel himself in his wheel chair. There was no speech therapy available, so I



Helen Hinchliff
AGING WITH GRACE

turned myself into his speech therapist, hoping he could learn to speak again. I remember creating a calendar on a large whiteboard onto which I’d write an important new thing he said each day. One day he said, “Susan is beautiful” about one of our friends who visited that day. After he was fitted for a specialized wheel chair, I took him on long walks around town.

This activity had mixed results for me: pushing two hundred pounds (his own weight plus the wheel chair) uphill and down made me physically stronger and slimmer and I was gratified that Donald’s ability to talk was improving a bit. However, I was spending so much time agonizing over his care, I was turning myself into an emotional wreck, the evidence for which I discovered a few days ago while clearing out excess paper, among which was a fat file of extended health care claims dating back twenty years.

They were filled with prescriptions and I had to explain the “nature of [my] illness.” I had needed calming potions to unjangle my nerves and a regimen of massage therapy for muscles tensed up by those nerves, I reported, because of “stress, tension, anxiety, insomnia and high blood pressure.” The act of sub-

mitting such a wimpish claim embarrassed me so much I’d added at the bottom the explanation that I was “a caregiver.” At some level, I must have realized I was damaging my emotional — and physical — health, but nobody, and I mean nobody, could make me understand I really should have been taking it “one day at a time.”

So it was especially refreshing when I enjoyed a cup of tea the other day with a friend I’ll call Jane who is caregiving her suddenly sick husband. She was looking remarkably calm and when I mentioned it, she smiled and replied, “I try to do one normal thing a day. It’s good for me and it’s good for him, too.”

I was a member of the Caregivers Support Group at the Seniors Services Society for several years and I think many of us probably started coming after we were already in advanced states of nervous exhaustion. Our stress levels seemed to remain high, at least I know mine did, so I breathed an enormous sigh of relief on Jane’s behalf as I thought to myself, “She’s taking it one day at a time.”

As we chatted about what led to her husband’s diagnosis and about her caregiving role, I asked her what else she’s doing to care for herself. Among other things, she has her own personal care bag in which she keeps light reading and some knitting. She also has a notebook to remember what the doctors say about her husband’s treatment and she writes down their daily activities, so she can keep track of the one normal thing she does each day.

HelenHinchliff.com

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JUNE 2019 HNP Z+8

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
19	0037	2.8	9.2	23	0447	2.3	7.5
	0409	3.0	9.8		0654	2.4	7.9
	WE 1155	0.4	1.3		SU 1425	1.0	3.3
	ME 2020	3.3	10.8		DI 2232	3.2	10.5
20	0138	2.7	8.9	24	0540	2.1	6.9
	0445	2.9	9.5		0817	2.2	7.2
	TH 1233	0.5	1.6		MO 1504	1.3	4.3
	JE 2057	3.3	10.8		LU 2259	3.2	10.5
21	0241	2.6	8.5	25	0620	1.9	6.2
	0521	2.7	8.9		1018	2.1	6.9
	FR 1310	0.6	2.0		TU 1547	1.6	5.2
	VE 2132	3.3	10.8		MA 2326	3.1	10.2
22	0345	2.5	8.2	26	0653	1.6	5.2
	0601	2.6	8.5		1229	2.1	6.9
	SA 1347	0.8	2.6		WE 1640	1.9	6.2
	SA 2203	3.3	10.8		ME 2352	3.1	10.2

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Practice earthquake drills at home, school and work. Commit a weekend to update telephone numbers, emergency supplies and review your plan with everyone.

The SSI Emergency Program plans and maps neighbourhood evacuation routes. If you need help with mapping or evacuation practices contact ssiepc@crd.bc.ca.



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Radio tower in Ganges bad idea

BY CHRIS ANDERSON

Improving emergency communications is important and yet it must not come at a cost to the health, security and privacy of citizens.

Any communications tower — including the proposed CREST emergency radio installation — causes adverse health and environmental effects, due to the non-natural EMR (electromagnetic radiation) it emits. The closer we live or work to a cell or radio tower, the greater the impact it has on us. Clearly, locating a radio tower in Ganges, or anywhere near where people live, is a mistake.

At least 17 studies — backed by a huge body of science — prove this. The Islands Trust is wise to be seeking safer alternative sites for an emergency communications tower, especially as any tower has the potential to become a site where other radiating transmitters may be placed.

But wait, wouldn't the government tell us if EMR from wireless towers and devices is dangerous? Health Canada's Safety Code Six sets our allowable radiation levels. In his book *Corrupt to the Core*, Dr. Shiv Chopra describes the culture at Health Canada, which seems designed not to protect Cana-

dians from industry, but industry from Canadians. Chopra was one of several senior scientists at HC, who was laid off for refusing orders to allow various carcinogenic pesticides from entering our food supply.

Historically, HC has also failed to protect us in a timely manner from other toxic substances such as tobacco, thalidomide, DDT, PCB's, lead etc.; and in the early 1980s, Health Canada's Bureau of Biologics failed in its responsibility to monitor blood safety, thus causing the "tainted blood" scandal which infected around 2,000 Canadians with HIV and another 30,000 with hepatitis C.

But the real culprit is not the monkey but the organ grinder. Earlier this year, the federal government gave \$40 million to promote 5G, which scientists warn is potentially the most dangerous wireless EMR technology to date.

Some good news: thanks to the hard work of concerned groups and individuals, between June 25 and June 29, Salt Spring Islanders have the unique opportunity to learn more about 5G and safe connectivity alternatives, as we host two internationally recognized scientific experts on wireless harm and

the benefits of wired networks.

Drs. Martin Pall and Tim Schoechele have impressive lists of credentials and a wealth of scientific knowledge. Dr. Pall is highly respected for his groundbreaking research studies showing the mechanisms by which EMR causes harm. Dr. Schoechele is a world expert on building safe, speedy and secure telecommunications networks by connecting community-owned fibre optics directly to each home or other building.

They will each present new discoveries on how EMR causes adverse effects on environmental and human health, and damages all living things, and how best to protect ourselves. They will give us a peek behind the curtain of denial. And they will offer viable telecommunications solutions for our island community.

The doctors will be making a by-donation presentation at GISS at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26. On Saturday, June 29, come celebrate as they help launch Let's Connect, Salt Spring's community fibre broadband project, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Centennial Park.

Submitted on behalf of Gulf Islanders for Safe Technology.

MORE LETTERS continued from 7

Be kind to tourists

While enjoying a Monday mid morning walk just outside the Long Harbour ferry terminal a stuffed white Mercedes SUV sped by heading for the deserted terminal. I observed as it came to an abrupt stop at the bitter end of Long Harbour Road. After a short stop there was a U-turn back to me, the only person around.

The car came to a quick stop. The driver's window wound down on the electric motor to expose a face riddled with stress.

"Where is the road to Vancouver?" the female face asked. My response was, this is the road. "But it ends there," she pointed. I responded, "No, it continues on to the ferry."

She replied, "My GPS says this is the road to Vancouver, what ferry?" I explained that she was on an island. "So when is the ferry? I have an appointment in Vancouver in one hour and my GPS says it is only 42 kilometres away."

I replied there are two or three ferries a day to Vancouver and she could check ferry times in the terminal office just over there.

"But I need to be in Vancouver in one hour." "You will probably be late," I explained.

So the car did a U-turn and headed for the terminal only to return a few minutes later sounding the horn and speeding off.

I wonder how their day worked out.
I love life on our island.

BILL COTE,
SALT SPRING

Plastic recycling

The following letter was sent to Bob McDonald, Extended Producer Responsibility Program leader, BC Ministry of the Environment, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

We are writing to you as concerned B.C. residents and members of the SUPER (Single Use Plastic Elimination and Recycling) group of Salt Spring Island. We fully support the Extended Producer Responsibility Program. However, while increasing recycling of plastic packaging will put a dent in the plastic going into our landfills and oceans, we think it is imperative to extend the program to other plastic types/products. For example, we currently cannot recycle hard plastic products (e.g. laundry baskets, children's toys, toothbrushes, garden hoses, etc).

On beach cleanups we often come upon large plastic racks and other hard plastic items that wash up. We currently have no place to recycle these on-island. Another item that often washes up on beaches is plastic string or rope, also not taken at our recycling depots. Marine mammals and birds can get tangled in these, usually causing death.

Finally, BC Recycling does not take plastic strapping or six-pack rings. There have been numerous cases of sea lions getting plastic straps caught around their necks, leading to starvation or infection, and other sea life can also get entangled.

We feel that the manufacturers of all plastic items should take responsibility for the full life cycle of their products and ensure that they are not endangering our environment.

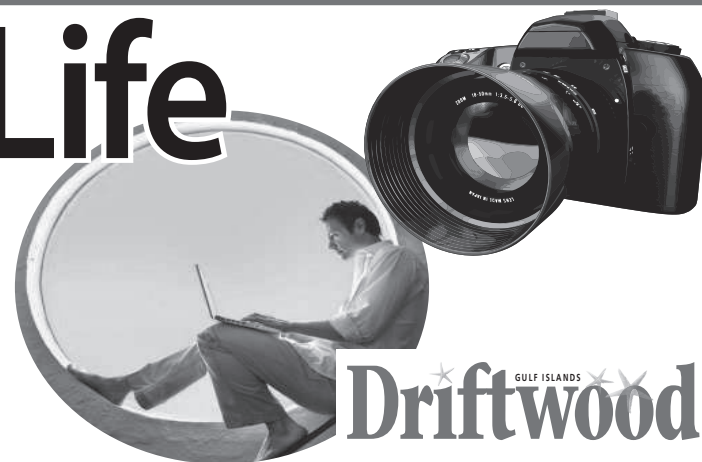
SUSAN HANNON, SUSAN PALMER, MICHELLE MECH AND TOM MITCHELL,
SALT SPRING ISLAND SUPER GROUP

show us
what you
see on
June 21!

A Day in the Life

We want photographers to send us their photos for our **2019 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island** publication. Just register in advance by sending an email to editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com and you will receive details about how to submit.

**Photos must be taken
between 5 a.m. on Friday, June 21st and
5 a.m. on Saturday, June 22nd.**



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SALT SPRING PHOTOFEST 2019



The first annual Salt Spring Photofest opened Thursday with exhibitions at 34 different venues around the island and kicked into high gear with five associated artists' receptions on Friday evening. The show is the coordinated effort of two main groups, Photosynthesis and the Salt Spring Photography Club. It also captures many individual photographers not associated with groups, some of whom are getting the opportunity to exhibit for the first time. The Driftwood is just one of the many locations to host photo art: come by our office to see a selection of Day in the Life shots from the past several years.

Maps of the participating locations can be found at ArtSpring, Gallery 8 and the Salt Spring Visitors Centre, and can be downloaded to mobile devices from saltspringphotofest.com. The show runs to June 26. See www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com for video of the opening speech by Photofest steering committee chair Pierre Mineau.

PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 Photofest images, from left: a visitor studies Deon Venter's photos at Venter Gallery; Photofest chair Pierre Mineau gives the festival's grand opening speech at ArtSpring; a few of the photos on display at the Driftwood; Connie Kuhns with her Salton Sea series at Pod Contemporary. Jen Holmes, also showing at Pod, is pictured on the front page.

LITERARY EVENTS

Salish Sea Islands anthology launched at Blackburn Lake

Related Wheston art show also opens

An important anthology of previously unpublished memoirs, essays and poems will be celebrated this Sunday, June 23 at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve.

The event runs from 4 to 6:30 p.m., with readings by some of the writers beginning at 4:30 p.m.

"Love of the Salish Sea Islands gathers 40 skilled and award-winning island writers in one place for the first time," explains a press release from Mother Tongue Publishing. "The many islands of the Salish Sea in British Columbia, and the waters that surround them – are brought to light in a kaleidoscope of short, brilliant compositions and verse – passionate, eclectic and reflective."

Contributors to the book are Taiiaki

Alfred, Chris Arnett, Brenda Brooks, Maria Coffey, Daniel Cowper, William Deverell, Ann Eriksson, Mona Fertig, Cathy Ford, Gary Geddes, Katherine Palmer Gordon, Peter Haase, Amanda Hale, Diana Hayes, Jack Hodgins, Cornelia Hoogland, Stephen Hume, Christina Johnson-Dean, Des Kennedy, Michael Kenyon, Zoë Landale, Peter Levitt, Derek Lundy, Matsuki Masutani, Karen McLaughlin, Maureen Moore, Arleen Paré, Briony Penn, Michael Redi-

can, Murray Reiss, Linda Rogers, Christine Smart, Steven Ross Smith, George Szanto, Nancy J. Turner, M.C. Warrior, Alison Watt, Bob Weeden, Rex Weyler and Sue Wheeler.

The introduction was written by long-time Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg.

The book is illustrated by Nicola Wheston and an exhibition of the oil paintings used will run from June 22 to July 8 in Unit 5 of Merchant Mews.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Vetta Chamber Music prepares next season

Tickets going fast for 2019-20 series

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Vetta Chamber Music continues to bring top quality concerts with amazing musicians to the West Coast audience, with its 34th season in Vancouver and its fourth on Salt Spring already planned for 2019-20.

Subscriptions to the island series are going fast after just a few weeks of being available, according to Vetta manager Larry Blackman. An exciting development for the coming year is that ArtSpring will host the full complement of Vetta concerts, offering the same experience that Vancouver concert-goers normally enjoy.

"We started with just three concerts for the first year, and then had four this past season," Blackman said. "In Vancouver the concerts are every two months, and here we had a four-month gap between."

Blackman observed the ArtSpring theatre size is ideal for chamber music, having enough seats to hold a good crowd will still maintaining the intimate nature of the music as it was first intended. Vetta artistic

director and violinist Joan Blackman has once again created a program for the coming year that includes an exciting roster of acclaimed musicians.

"Joan's focus is to always make it a variety and always make it quality," Larry Blackman said. "She also tries to program a mixture of things the audience wants to hear, and things that musicians would like to play. There can be a couple of things that are familiar to listeners and some things that might be new to them."

The series opener on Sept. 30 features the Vetta String Quartet, with Joan Blackman, Maria Larionoff (violin), David Harding (viola) and Eugene Osadchy (cello). The group will perform the first quartet that Beethoven ever wrote, plus Shostakovich's first and Tchaikovsky's last quartets.

The Nov. 30 concert explores the "Art of the Tango Fugue." Jonathan Goldman, a bandoneon musician and arranger, guides the audience through an exploration of the connection between Bach and Piazzolla, the famous Argentinian composer.

The program is arranged for string quartet and bandoneon. Joining Blackman and Goldman are musicians Jennie Press (violin), Tawnya Popoff (viola) and Zoltan Rosznyi (cello).

The Immortal Flute is the title of the first concert of 2020, when pre-eminent flautist Lorna McGhee returns for a "tasting menu" program that goes from baroque to folk on Feb. 1.

On March 7, Vetta celebrates the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth with a performance of the Kruetzer Sonata, plus Korngold's Suite for Two Violins, Cello and Piano Left Hand. Jane Coop is the pianist who will help express the drama and virtuosity of this program. She will use just her left hand for the Korngold piece, as the composer wrote it for Paul Wittgenstein, an eminent pianist who lost his right arm in the First World War.

Rounding out the season on May 16 is "The Dream Trio" of Joan Blackman, Osadchy and Arthur Rowe (piano). They will perform a classic program of Haydn, Brahms and Schubert.

Vetta is able to offer its full series of concerts on-island this coming season thanks to support from its signature sponsor, Michael Pidgeon.

Tickets can be purchased through the ArtSpring box office. A discount of 25 per cent will be applied with subscription to the entire five-concert series.

Home is Where the Heart is

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EXITSTAGELEFT PRODUCTIONS IN ASSOCIATION WITH Graffiti Theatre PRESENT

SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

CENTENNIAL PARK
 JUNE 28, 29, JULY 4, 5, 6 @ 7:00
 JULY 7 @ 2:00
 TICKETS AT SALT SPRING BOOKS

LIVE THEATRE

ExitStageLeft raises pirate flag for Shakespeare

The Comedy of Errors comes to Centennial Park June 28

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's now-annual tradition of summer Shakespeare in the park will be brought to audiences this year by sea chanties, puffy shirts and eye patches.

The Comedy of Errors opens at Centennial Park on Friday, June 28. In addition to having a new and more prominent outdoor location, the creative team at exitStageLeft productions has decided on a lighter, less serious season for 2019 — so pirates it is.

Even though the company's 2018 production of Taming of the Shrew held plenty of laughs, not to mention gender-reversed roles and an Old West setting, some heavier themes were explored in the wake of the #MeToo movement. The company's late summer production of Spring Awakening took an even deeper look into the darkness threatening young people.

"Artists can either respond to things like #MeToo or ignore it. It's in the zeitgeist so we have to respond to it," said director Jeffrey Renn.

"I'm really proud of last year's courageous work," he added, "but this year we decided to have fun."

"Yet we're still doing something that responds to the global climate, in a subtle way," said Christina Penhale, who is the company co-founder and principle along with Jekka Mack. "There's a huge degree of thought process going into what this show is and what we are trying to say here."

The Comedy of Errors tells the story of two sets of identical twins who were accidentally separated at birth and raised in separate cities. The errors of misidentification ensue when one half of the divide arrives in the city of the other half and end up in their homes and relationships. In addition to the farcical comedy this produces, the exitStageLeft production touches on very topical concerns, start-



Actors and musicians rehearse The Comedy of Errors at Centennial Park on Friday evening. From left are Kahlila Ball, Christie Roome, Rowan Algoet, Michelle Footz and Jacob Culling.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

ing with the pushback against immigration and outsiders happening all over the world.

Shakespeare set The Comedy of Errors in the Greek city of Ephesus, a place where any and every vice can be indulged but strangers are not welcome. Renn prefers to transport Shakespeare's plays to settings that are quickly familiar to the modern Western audience, but are also removed enough from current reality that the Comedia del'Arte's stock characters and situations can be maintained.

That combined with the need for an element of danger — crucial to setting up plot in a farce — made it the ideal opportunity to satisfy a desire by Penhale and Mack to have a pirate-themed play. The classical Greek city on the shores of the Mediterranean becomes a pirate stronghold in the Caribbean, which provides a topsy-turvy world shadowed by risk of

death. As Renn observes, what better symbol of this than the Jolly Roger's skull and cross bones?

"There's also an element this season of 'flying your freak flag high,' which is about this community," Renn said.

ExitStageLeft was formed with the intention of growing the island's theatre community and producing high quality musicals. The family has indeed been expanding and developing apace, with special attention to including a wide variety of ages and experience levels in the cast. Peter Hoskins, a 2017 grad, plays one of the lead twin roles this time and Kahlila Ball, just finishing grade 11, plays the female lead.

While young people have always been involved in the acting side of exitStageLeft work, this summer's production also has a starring role for musicians aligned with the school district. Michelle Footz, music

teacher at Gulf Islands Secondary School and the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts, has come on as the company's music director. She's brought students Jacob Culling and Troy Gerow with her to form the band along with herself and Derrick Milton.

"Part of my aim is not to just put on school performances, but to get students out in as many real world gigs as possible, and to a variety of gigs," Footz said. "To be a musician, if you actually want to make a living at all, you have to be open to playing different varieties of styles, with different artists and venues."

"I'm really proud of last year's courageous work, but this year we decided to have fun."

JEFFREY RENN
Director, *The Comedy of Errors*

Footz's arrangement of "pirate-esque sea chanties and narrative songs" gives the score its signature sound with instrumentation for accordion, percussion, bass, guitar and some trumpet.

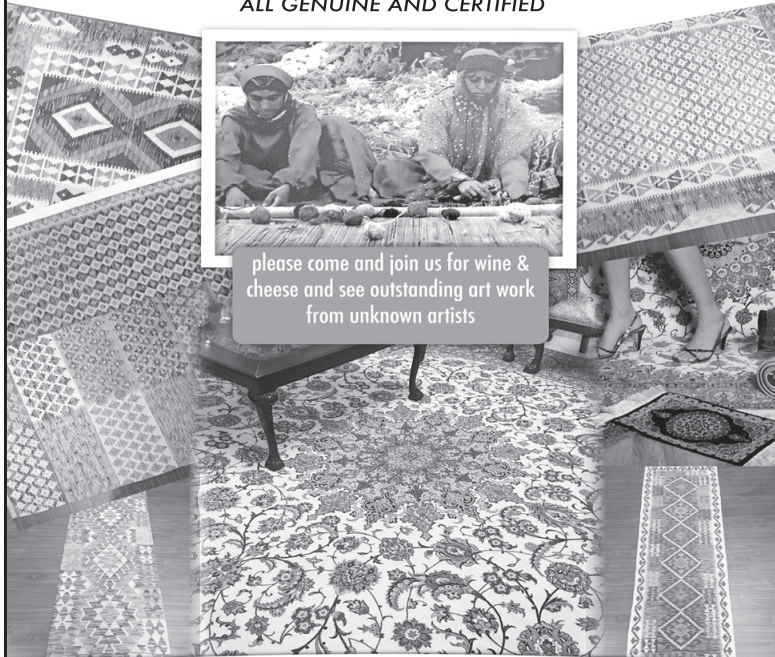
"As a teacher I've been involved with school groups, but I've been wanting to get more involved with community groups like this — it's so cool to be invited in this bridging now," Footz said. "I feel grateful and jazzed about this happening."

In the past two summer Shakespeare productions, songs were offered in a casual way in the half hour before the show to set the scene. This year there will be music in a pirate tavern as part of the main show after the curtain rises, so there is an earlier start time.

The Comedy of Errors shows in association with Graffiti Theatre at Centennial Park at 7 p.m. on June 28 and 29, and again July 4-7, plus at 2 p.m. on July 7. Tickets are at Salt Spring Books.

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CONCERTS

Wesley Hardisty plays Tea à Tempo

Popular fiddler returns to island
June 26

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Audiences are in for a treat when fiddler Wesley Hardisty returns to Salt Spring on Wednesday, June 26 to perform for Tea à Tempo's Summer Series of weekly concerts.

Hardisty is a fiddler and composer whose music blends rock, country, folk, Celtic and Métis sounds. Just 25, he has an impressive resume with hundreds of gigs, festivals and TV performances.

"His passionate playing is compelling to watch; his love of music evident," a press release from Music Makers states. "He is known for creating emotionally evocative music and is a soulful musician."

Hardisty is from the Dene First Nation in the Northwest Territories. Largely self taught, he took up the fiddle at age 13 in Fort Simpson through the outreach work of the Kole Crook Fiddle Association. He went on to attend the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts on Salt Spring.

Hardisty's first major performance was the 2010 Winter Olympics, as part of the Daniel Lapp All-Star Fiddle Orchestra, and as part of the NWT Collective. His debut CD 12:12 won the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples



Wesley Hardisty plays Tea a Tempo on June 26.

Choice Music Award for Best Fiddle CD. In 2019, he released the EP Hittin' Home.

The concert starts at 2:10 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church on Park Drive. All donations are directed towards the musicians and the running of the series. Tea and treats by the Anglican caterers are available for purchase immediately after the show.



ISLAND LIFE

- Youth action
- Remember When
- Star of the Week

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, Streets of Salt Spring Island

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com



YOUTH LIT

Library has reads for under-14s

Top picks for the summer

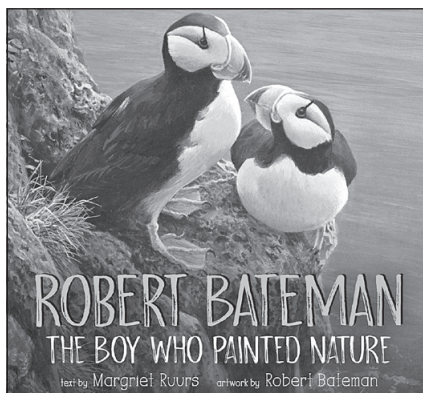
Summer's coming in hot. For many Salt Springers, it's the busy season, but for kids, it means endless stretches of unscheduled time. Fire ban or no, you can still help ignite a lifelong passion for reading: under a tree, lakeside, or curled up in a shady hammock.

These recent children's titles by Canadian authors and illustrators can all be found at the Salt Spring Island Public Library. They're all either major award nominees, have been created by Salt-Spring-adjacent folks, or both. We'll leave the YA for another day.



Lavonne Leong
READING ROOM

Bateman illustrated the book himself, with his signature sharply observed details from the natural world: the curl of birch bark, the shine of an orca fin, the wet droop of leaves after the rain.



Picture Books

- **The Better Tree Fort** by Jessica Scott Kerrin. Illustrated by Qin Leng. Russell wants a tree fort, and his unhandy but loving dad is willing to build one and learn as he goes. The end result is "just perfect," according to Russell — until a tree fort goes up next door, with a slide, turrets and electricity. Good for anyone who's ever thought the grass looked pretty green on the other side of the fence.

- **I Love Sharks, Too!** by Leanne Shirliffe. Illustrated by Lorenzo Montatore. Did you know that mako sharks don't have to brush their teeth because their teeth are covered in fluoride? This picture book about a boy who tries to get out of every sticky kid situation by citing shark facts will delight and educate kids, and ring true to many parents. A creative combo of science and story.

- **Robert Bateman, The Boy Who Painted Nature** by Margriet Ruurs. Illustrated by Robert Bateman. With simple, evocative language, Ruurs recounts the wonder-filled natural journey, starting in childhood, of one of British Columbia's best-loved artists.

Chapter Books

- **Mine!** by Natalie Hyde. It starts with moose snot and unravels from there: this hilarious tale follows Chris Dearing across the Yukon in a quest to rewrite his family's unlucky history and reclaim his grandpa's gold. A page-turning, road-tripping romp through Canadian history.

- **Holly Farb and the Princess of the Galaxy** by Gareth Wronski. What's worse than being kidnapped by aliens? Being kidnapped along with the most annoying boy in the class . . . and still having to face down bounty hunters, insect librarians, pirates and giant worms, before Friday's big test. Science fiction with a big helping of wacky.

- **Engineered! Engineering Design at Work** by Shannon Hunt. Illustrated by James Gulliver Hancock. Every problem — whether it's landing a rover on Mars or saving a herd of caribou — has a solution. That's the upbeat message of this excellent book for curious readers. The book's writer-illustrator team delves into real-world problems solved by an engineering mindset, and shows kids how they can do it, too.

Middle Grades

- **#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women.** Edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale. "Sometimes you have to hit rock bottom before you can rise up." Any middle-schooler can relate to this engaging, challenging and eye-opening collage of poetry, true stories and art about growing up as an Indigenous person in a colonized world.

- **The Wollstonecraft Detective Agency: The Case of the Missing Moonstone.** Former Salt-Springer Jordan Stratford took two of the 19th century's most celebrated women — Ada Byron, the world's first computer programmer, and Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, the world's first science fiction author — reimagined them into resourceful young friends in a madcap fantasy England, and gave them a bejewelled mystery to solve.

- **The Summer We Saved the Bees** by Robin Stevenson. "How do you plan for the future when your own parents don't believe you have one?" This easy-reading, humorous and ultimately optimistic middle-grade novel by a Victoria-based author captures what it's like to come of age when the adults seem to feel the world is ending. Complete with family bee costumes.

FIRST NATIONS

Indigenous crafts on tap

Market in United Church meadow offered this Saturday

The Salt Spring United Church meadow will be abuzz with Indigenous artists and crafters showcasing their work this Saturday, June 22.

The First Nations Connection Group of the Salt Spring Island United Church is pleased to support the island's Indigenous neighbours by hosting the market where all islanders and tourists have the opportunity to meet, appreciate and shop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Artists and craftspeople will be coming from all over Coast Salish territory, bringing a wide variety of handmade arts and craft items.

"There is increasing awareness of the importance and urgency of the reconciliation work taking place with First Nations peoples all over Canada. Many of us are working hard to create opportunities to educate ourselves on the legacy of colonialism," said John Lugsdin, a member of the congregation's First Nations Connection Group.

"We are trying to put reconciliation into action by creating opportunities for connection and support. We know there is much work to be done, but even small things like this can make a difference."

Lugsdin said islanders can do their part by coming to the meadow on Saturday and connecting with Indigenous artists — as neighbours, artists, vendors and friends.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

by Michael O'Connor

www.sunstarastronomy.com | sunstarastronomy@gmail.com

TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Happy Solstice! This marks the official start of summer. Of course, in the southern hemisphere, it is the beginning of winter. It is ever a rather odd fact that the hemispheres above and below the equator reveal mirror image seasonal rounds. Anyway, personal experience is in its own way the ultimate law and literally constitutes reality. Imagine that! Reality is not really out there so much as how your own brain is processing your experience. So much for the notion of objectivity, which pretty much amounts to the illusion we share. . . . This riddle of perception is inspired by Mercury currently closely cuddling . . . er. . . conjunct Mars in Cancer, the sign of the comedian. The North Node in Cancer is symbolic of letting go of control and lightening-up. So, if you are having any difficulty with this notion that subjectivity is ultimately all there is, then lighten up. After all, it is summer and time to play. . . more.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Home and family interests, concerns and projects continue. Directly or indirectly, your focus includes learning new ways to generate new income streams, perhaps especially passive income or the kind you can do from home and/or on the internet. Others are doing it so why not you? Deciphering what and how are the questions that need to be answered.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

How much ground can and do you cover in a day. The answer is probably more than some, perhaps even you, realize. Fortunately, your energy levels have been running high. 'Good ting too because you have been digging deep and continue to too. . . (That is the sound of your gears shifting and whistles blowing as you come back for another round. . .)

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Feeling secure comes in many forms and you are in search of them. One form is getting your house in order. This includes cleaning right into the corners and organizing everything. Another kind is linked to a healthy diet and nutrition. Having a diverse network of friends and people you can call on is yet another. Can you add to this list?

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Sun, Mercury, Mars, and the North Node are all in your sign. Together these are activating your focus to take new leads and strides. This trend will continue well into July. In fact, it will increase and deepen. Feeling faithful about all the changes is the bigger challenge. Gratitude and appreciation for all you are and have will help.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Hopefully, by now you have a momentum already happening with your projects, in as much as you are interested in productivity. If not, you may simply enjoy a cycle of deep downtime and rest. Days can seem longer when they are not filled with activities. Sometimes having sweet eff all to do is a real treat. Either way, step away from your fans for a while.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 24)

The Sun joining Mercury and Mars in your sign is contributing to a process of nurturing your sense of individuality. Fortunately, Jupiter is helping to boost your confidence levels. This is especially true regarding your talents. With financial interests and concerns lingering, this is a good thing. Of course, taking action is the key ingredient of power.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 23)

Forging ahead in your career and/or social scene is important now. The limelight is yours if you want it. You have probably been busy gathering specialized knowledge you can apply. Yet, the deeper challenge may be confronting and overcoming fears of one kind or another. These are probably directly related to lack of clarity regarding your best direction.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A driving push for the future is a good way to describe the current energy pattern. This cycle actually began several weeks ago. Yet, it is now entering its stride. Your ambitions are strong and this is one of those go big cycles. Your ability to sustain what you go big with or about will be the other challenge. For now, it is bells and whistles and squeaky wheels.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Some cycles require us to dig deeper than others, like this one. What you are digging for is important to know. Generally, it includes dreams. More specifically, you are after a whole new level of personal power. Like searching for buried treasure, knowing where to dig is the key, and then how deep to go. For these answers, you may need some help.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Your relationship life has been busy and full and is set to increase on both accounts. Family activity will prove especially rewarding. However, there have likely been a few issues to clear in that department of the past weeks. Yet, some issues may still be lingering and, if so, these are likely to be addressed soon. Be careful of words expressed that cannot be retrieved.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

A busy cycle continues and has included paying close attention to the details especially for the sake of getting organized. Positively, your focus has been strong and steady, even if the pace has perhaps been slower than desired. Meanwhile, social and cultural activity probably involving studies is keeping you busy enough to feel inspired.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The Sun entering Cancer will activate your interest to get out more. Specifically, this marks a playful time. Splicing it in as much as you can is ideal to offset your otherwise busy schedule on the career front. Contraction to expand is the core theme in this regard and implies work. Yet, creative work will feel more like play so make it a priority.

what's on this week


Wed. June 19
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Parisian Jazz Cafe. With jazz vocalist Caroni Young, guitarist Jim Shultz and bass player Ian Van Wyck. All Saints. 2:10 p.m.
Vaughn Fulford. Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. Open Wednesdays through Fridays at the Farmers' Institute grounds, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., until June 28.
Strawberry Social. Salt Spring Seniors Society event at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 p.m.
Tour Des Iles open house. Sailing ship Providence. Kanaka Dock. 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Book Launch: Complicated Simplicity. Victoria author Joy Davis gives a reading and talk on her new book about small island living at the Salt Spring Public Library. 6:30 p.m.
Music Bingo. Wednesdays with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Thu. June 20
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Alan Moberg. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Open Mic at Moby's. Thursdays at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday listing.
North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Board of trustees meeting. NSWWD office. 10 a.m.
Open House: Wild Cider Lounge Application. Public invited to give input on application to change hours of operation and liquor serving size at Salt Spring Wild Cider. 151 Sharp Road. 7 to 8 p.m.

Fri. June 21
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marianne Grittani. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Blanky. Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt House Museum. See Wednesday listing.
Tour des Iles. Three-day festival of inter-island small boat service that connects Pender, Saturna, Salt Spring, Galiano and Mayne islands, plus Sidney. See tourdesiles.ca for schedule and to book trips from Ganges Harbour.
StoryWalk. Walk through a walk while reading picture book pages posted along the path from the Salt Spring Public Library to Mouat Park and Rainbow Road Pool. This month's read is *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywait. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Family Literacy Day. Engineering for Kids visits Salt Spring to offer hand-on access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects. Ideal for children aged four to seven and their caregivers. Pre-registration requested. Salt Spring Public Library. 12:15 to 1 p.m.
SSI Conservancy Annual General Meeting. Annual general meeting at the main building at 265 Blackburn Rd. Come for updates and refreshments. 1:30 to 3 p.m.
Book Launch: Susan Benson – Art, Craft and Design on Stage. Launch of Patricia Flood's book about Salt Spring artist Susan Benson's theatre design career. Mahon Hall. 5:30 p.m.

Fri. June 21
ACTIVITIES

Summer Solstice Swim. Celebrate the longest day of the year with a fun swim, games, crafts and treats. Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sat. June 22
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

RainWood Dance Studio Year End Recital. RainWood students of all ages are ready to perform what they have developed since the winter in several dance styles. Two shows at ArtSpring: Show 1 at 6 p.m. will showcase the dances of groups ages 3-5 and 6-9. Show 2 at 7:30 p.m. will showcase the dances of groups ages 6-12, 10-13 and 14 to adult.
Tom Hooper. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Everyday People. Live music at Moby's. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Saturday Market. Famous market of arts and crafts vendors, food and farmers in Centennial Park every Saturday through October. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Finding Ourselves in Retirement. Workshop facilitator Bonnie Milne offers workshop that will open the door to create a dynamic retirement plan. Anderson Room, Seniors Centre at Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Indigenous Art and Crafts Market. Indigenous artists and crafters showcase their work in the Salt Spring Island United Church Meadow from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat. June 22
ACTIVITIES

Tour de Rock Meet & Greet. Come support the 2019 Tour de Rock cyclist team as they take a day to train on Salt Spring. Join them at the Saturday Market in the Park to take a photo, check out swag, and make a donation to support children affected by cancer. Centennial Park. 2 to 2:35 p.m.

Sun. June 23
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peter Prince. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Student Pottery Show and Sale. Light refreshments provided. Twenty-five per cent of proceeds go to the Salt Spring Food Bank. Lan's Hands Pottery Studio, 470 Sky Valley Road. 2 to 5 p.m.
Art Talk: The Group of Six – Forms in Nature. Talk by ArtCraft Showcase artists, whose exhibition is also part of the Salt Spring Festival of photography. Mahon Hall. 2 p.m.
Book Launch: Love of the Salish Sea Islands. Celebration for new Mother Tongue Publishing book containing new essays, memoirs and poems by 40 island writers. Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Mon. June 24
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dan Smith. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

Mon. June 24
ACTIVITIES

SSI Transportation Commission. Regular business meeting. Library program room. 4 to 6 p.m.
Take Action Together on the Climate Emergency. Community meeting sponsored by the Community Alliance and Transition Salt Spring. Lions Hall. 7 p.m.

Tue. June 25
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic With Richard Cross. Tuesdays at Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Business meeting at Harbour House Hotel gets started at 9:30 a.m., with trustee reports and town hall session at 12 noon.
Tech Cafe: Excel for Beginners. Part 2 of a two-part course presented at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 4 p.m. Pre-registration required at the library information desk, or call 250-537-4666, or email at info@saltspringlibrary.com.
CANCELLED: Life Drawing Group Weekly drawing class at Lions Hall closed for the summer.
Tuesday Farmers Market. Food-only market with all homegrown or handmade goods. Runs June through September at Centennial park. 2 to 6 p.m.
Salt Spring Special Olympics AGM. Annual general meeting held at Choices. 6:30 p.m.

Tue. June 25
ACTIVITIES

An Evening of Quiet Practice. Drop-in event where people can bring their own their own practice of prayer, meditation, contemplation, writing, or walk in the graveyard. Every fourth Tuesday of the month at Star of the Sea Centre. 7 to 8:30 p.m.
Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Wed. June 26
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo presents Wesley Hardisty. Singer-songwriter, fiddle and piano player Wesley Hardisty plays Tea à Tempo recital. All Saints. 2:10 p.m.
Sky Valley. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 7 to 10 p.m.
Music of the Night: The Concert Tour. A concert celebration of Andrew Lloyd Webber's 70th Birthday and his acclaim as the most successful musical theatre composer of all time. Featuring Webber's most iconic theatrical music performed by an internationally-acclaimed professional cast. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Garden Club. Guest speaker is Linda Gilkeson on Gardening and Climate Change. Meaden Hall. 6:30 p.m. Meeting opens with the parlour show and refreshments, followed by the speaker.
The Mind Matters. Public session on psychology and the power of mindset with Dr. Rigobert Kefferputz, Naturopathic Doctor. Salt Spring Public Library. 6:45 p.m.

Wed. June 26
ACTIVITIES

Shifting Paradigms: From 5G to Wired Fibre. 5G-Free Salt Spring and Let's Connect Salt Spring host experts who will share their knowledge about the biological effects of non-natural electromagnetic frequencies (EMFs) and 5G, and the many benefits of community-owned wired-to-the-premises fibre optics networks. Gulf Islands Secondary School. 7 to 9 p.m.
Bittancourt House Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.
Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column,
Streets of Salt Spring Island.

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at:
250-537-9933 or dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com

Driftwood


THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Toy Story 4** — Shows Thursday, June 20 to Thursday, July 4 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, June 30.
For more movie info go to www.thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Nicola Wheston** shows the oil paintings that illustrated the new book *Love of the Salish Sea Islands* from June 22 to July 8 in **Unit 5, Merchant Mews**.
• **Salt Spring Photofest** continues with two anchoring shows: Photosynthesis at ArtSpring and Salt Spring Photography Club at **Gallery 8**, plus Photofest exhibitions at 34 participating galleries, shops and cafes. Runs to June 26.
• Photography by **Connie Kuhn** and **Jen Holmes** shows at **Pod Contemporary**.
• **The Venter Gallery** is participating in **Salt Spring Photofest** with 19 archival silvertone on aluminum prints by **Deon Venter**.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Playtime: Photography by Sam Montelbetti** shows at the **Salt Spring Gallery** to June 26.
• **The Group of Six** shares their Black and White Photography Exhibit at the **Library Program Room** to June 29 as part of **Salt Spring Photofest**. The **Group of 6** is comprised of **Larry Citra, Kahsia Hartwell, Simon Henson, Ross McLeod, Bruce McPhee** and **Judy McPhee**.
• **The Group of Six** are also featured as the **ArtCraft Showcase** exhibition with a show called *Forms in Nature* at **Mahon Hall** to June 26.
• **Kizmit Galeria** shows paintings by Ian Thomas and handmade cribbage boards by **Liam Johnson** through June.
• **Susan Benson** brings her theatrical experience to bear on luminous new pastels of Salt Spring at **Duthie Gallery** to June 26. Gallery hours are Friday to Monday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
• **Erin Cleal** has the **ArtSpring** lobby exhibit for June, showing **Pushing Paint**, a body of work that focuses on the repetition of texture, patterns and colour.

5th annual Tour des Iles

Inter-island tours and festival

June 21, 22, 23

tourdesiles.ca

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MENTAL HEALTH

Youth-led survey project identifies local needs

Survey info leads to several MTAC projects

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Many young people feel lost and alone, without having the skills or support to deal with mental health issues. It takes a special person to make use of those personal difficulties so that others might have an easier time.

Three young women who grew up on Salt Spring have made this step, using their experience to form a group called Mindful Teenagers Affecting Change that is working to improve mental health awareness and coping skills in youth. A survey that MTAC initiated at Gulf Islands Secondary School is now informing several courses of action centered on peer support.

Jessi Cullis, Maeve Newton and Jessamine Vasquez had all faced struggles individually with things like anxiety, depression and loneliness. They found a common bond once they were introduced to each other by teacher/principal Sue Starkey through the Phoenix alternative program.

"It got us thinking there should be someone to talk to," Cullis said. "We should find out how many other people were struggling and wanted a safe space."

The group put together their survey and solicited participation at the high school in 2016, receiving responses from around 150 students. The survey asked questions about students' knowledge and experience of depression and anxiety, their coping mechanisms, and contributing factors such as sleep,

social media, lifestyle and obligations. The results were collated in a summary in 2018.

Vasquez said MTAC's intention was to encourage thought toward physical and mental health awareness in youth. The survey succeeded in identifying a need, although she said youth don't always have the language to articulate what they're going through or what they need.

"What concerned me the most wasn't that there were so many of my peers dealing with mental health struggles; I knew that would be the case," said Newton. "What concerned me was how few of them felt safe enough to get help when they were struggling. It's so important that we are present for our youth and provide spaces and resources for them to process what they're going through."

Cindy Clark is a youth counsellor and "navigator" with Salt Spring Community Services who has been meeting with the MTAC group on a weekly basis as a volunteer facilitator.

"One of the things that came out of the survey was a lot of youth wanted to know about stress — what it is and how to manage it. That surprised us," Clark said.

Out of 130 respondents, 75 said they had experienced heightened feelings of anxiety that prevented them from doing things they wished to, and 39 said that happened on a daily basis. Youth also indicated they are aware of the contributing factors, and of methods of self-care such as breathing — which was named as the top mechanism students used to cope with stress. The most common reason for experiencing stress was homework, while anxiety was most commonly experienced at school, followed by social situations.



PHOTO COURTESY JESSAMINE VASQUEZ
MTAC founders, from left, Jessi Cullis, Jessamine Vasquez and Maeve Newton seen on GISS graduation night in 2017.

"It's a silent but deadly kind of thing," Cullis said, noting that youth stress appears to be school-led for the most part, especially with expectations around grades and homework. "There's no resource to help lift that or cope with that."

Coping mechanisms noted in the survey were on the healthy side overall. A majority said they confided in friends, parents or a counsellor or spent time with friends, engaged in activity or exercise, and practised self-care. Just six said they turned to self-harm, drugs or alcohol, while 17 said they do not cope at all.

"Salt Spring is pretty amazing that way. Youth are already pretty mindful," Clark

said. "So the question is how we can de-isolate youth and keep connections sustainable, and how to support circles of care. I think connection continues to be our biggest ally."

One of the actions that has come directly out of the survey is the return of the Core Inn's third floor as youth-dedicated space. While Community Services operates the building as a downtown youth centre, Cullis said the main floor drop-in is mainly used by middle school grades and high school students with a very specific interest in gaming. With Clark's help and support from Community Services, MTAC set about creating a cozy environment with lots of couches and chairs for lounging. The group's three young women did the decorating with a small budget for cheap new and used items supplemented by donations.

The MTAC group has also committed to its own outreach by setting up "Capacity Cafe" conversation circles at GISS and a small mentorship group at Salt Spring Middle School, and creating a Facebook page loaded with information about mental health management. The next thing they are working on is getting permission to have a campaign at GISS that would involve printing out words like "breathe" and posting them in the washrooms, as well as pamphlets about managing stress.

"I'd love to see more support from mental health professionals in our schools and education, starting from elementary, on how to cope with stress and anxiety, teaching language to help our youth express what they're feeling and understand that they're not alone in feeling these things and there are resources readily available for them," Newton said.

healthy LIFESTYLE

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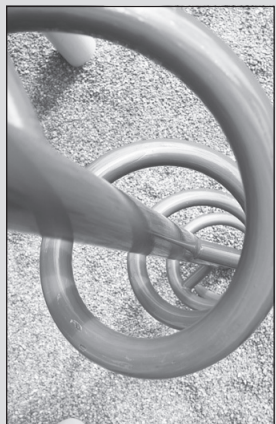




PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

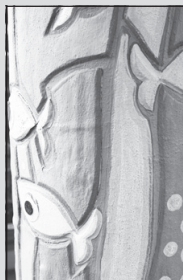
ALL ABOARD: Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society directors Robin Williams, left, and Darryl Martin get ready to welcome passengers to the fifth annual Tour des Îles festival at the Kanaka Dock in Ganges Harbour. There will be an open house at the sailing ship Providence today (Wednesday June 19) at Kanaka Dock from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Tour des Îles runs Friday to Sunday, June 21 to 23.

What is this? Where is it?



Can you identify this spot on Salt Spring? Send your answer to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or send a note to us on Facebook. The first person to submit the right answer gets their name published in this space.

LAST WEEK: James Wood was the first to recognize this post outside the Old Salty shop, and that it was painted and sculpted by Kristin Shoobraid.

SALT
SPRING

Star

of the WEEK

Georgina O'Farrell



Georgina O'Farrell is a volunteer with the Lady Minto Thrift Store, the Salt Spring Island seniors centre and with Ometepe Coffee.

O'Farrell has lived on Salt Spring off and on for 14 years, and loves working with seniors.

Her other interests include working on organic farms. She has a history of working as a tree planter, and used to work as a nanny in multiple international locations like Switzerland, San Francisco, France as well as Vancouver.

Remember WHEN

Five years ago

- Frustration continued over the provincial government's inability to prevent the construction of a luxury home on a traditional First Nations' cemetery on Grace Islet. A group opposing the project scheduled a rally on National Aboriginal Day with First Nations and non-First Nations drummers, singers and speakers. Different levels of government had attempted to persuade the owner of the property to sell it at fair market value, so it could be put into conservation. "I'm hoping the First Nations gathering this Saturday will capture the owner's attention and strike a chord among Salt Springers," said MLA Gary Holman.

Ten years ago

- A tow-truck operator pulled in an unusual catch from the waters of St. Mary Lake after emergency crews responded to reports of a man driving his luxury sports car over the bank. Witness Mark Toole, owner of the Lakeside Gardens Resort on North End Road, said he noticed an individual preparing to drive a shiny red convertible Corvette into the lake near the resort. By the time emergency crews arrived on the scene, the car was nowhere to be seen and the middle-aged male had commandeered a two-person paddle boat. "He made it across the bay and got quite a ways out," Toole said. The man was taken to Lady Minto Hospital and placed in the care of a mental health professional.

Twenty years ago

- An altercation involving a pub patron was started after a Moby's employee asked a customer not to smoke. Darren Muir, from Vancouver, refused and subsequently had his drink taken away by the bar employee. Muir tried to engage a nearby customer in a discussion about the CRD bylaw against smoking, and when the other man was reluctant to join in, Muir became aggressive and grabbed the man by the neck, pulling out some hair. Muir tried to escape, but he tripped on the steps on his way out. RCMP who arrived and arrested Muir found 10.4 grams of marijuana and 21 grams of hashish on his person. Muir pled guilty to assault and possession charges.

Thirty years ago

- Salt Spring nurses joined a province-wide strike after close to one month of job action. Lady Minto Hospital administrator Diane Horovatin said that essential services provided by the unions were being maintained, as management was picking up the "bits and pieces," and patient care was not jeopardized. Initially offered by the Health Labour Relations Association, which bargained for the province's health care facilities, was a raise from \$15.07 to \$15.90, and up to \$19.68 after eight years on the job. The union was asking nurses to start at \$18.15 per hour, and to make \$21.30 after six years on the job. "It wanted to dictate a settlement rather than negotiate one," union spokesman Jerry Miller said. Talks between the union and the HLRA broke down on June 13. The union said higher wages were needed to help attract nurses to work in the province.

Forty years ago

- Lady Minto Hospital was facing a deficit of \$80,187, with only \$25,000 of additional funding to come from the government. Board chairman Iola Brookbanks explained the province sent the hospital its money every month, but usually after the payroll went out. In order to make payroll, the hospital had to borrow the money from the bank. Reasons given for the deficit were higher costs of drugs and food and higher wages. Brookbanks said the hospital was not unionized but employees were paid union wages.

Fifty years ago

- Two homes were delivered to the Gulf Islands, one by air and one by sea. The first was transported to Salt Spring on the Sechelt Queen from Tsawwassen. The home was too wide to squeeze onto the ferry dock in Ganges, and had to be jostled using jacks and ropes. Eventually it was unloaded after an hour of work. The ferry was more than an hour late on its run. The other home was a trailer that was transported by helicopter to Retreat Island near Galiano Island. The trailer was lifted into the air to the enjoyment of a crowd of spectators on North Galiano before being deposited at its new site.

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Obituaries

Catherine (Kitty) Margaret Harris
 Catherine (Kitty) Margaret Harris, nee Stobbe, passed away peacefully in Royal Inland Hospital in Kamloops on June 13, 2019. She was predeceased by her husband of 63 years Rev. H.E. Harris (Bert). She was born on November 15, 1924 in Russia and emigrated to Canada in 1925 with her parents. She is survived by her daughters Catherine (Cay) Swanson and husband Lyle and Constance (Connie) Elsdon and husband Bob, her 5 grandchildren, their spouses, and 7 great grandchildren.

Obituaries

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 thoughts are deep.
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Memoriam

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 Friday, June 21, 1:30 pm
 265 Blackburn Road

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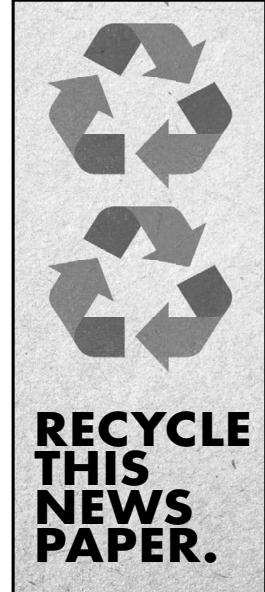
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SPORTS + RECREATION

D.W. Salty is looking for material for his column, Streets of Salt Spring Island

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com



TRAIL RUNNING

Ruckle park run includes First Nations teachings

Event included cedar weaving, salmon dinner

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Runners gathered in Ruckle Park over the weekend to take part in the annual Run Salt Spring Ruckle Park Trail Run and Cultural Celebrations.

The three-day event started with a camp-out Friday night in Ruckle Park. Saturday morning began with a welcoming ceremony, followed by a kids' run, and a set of trail runs in varying lengths, as well as cedar weaving lessons and a traditional salmon dinner.

Runners had the choice of a 16-km run through the park and around the Beaver Point area, a 10-km run or a three-km run. The event attracts both local runners and runners from off-island.

Organizer Dave Melanson started the Ruckle Park run as a way to bring an understanding and appreciation of First Nations peoples to the sport of trail running. Melanson grew up running the trails in Ruckle Park, and decided that more people would benefit from seeing the beauty of the local trails.

"It was kind of born of wanting to do something to help give back to the island that I grew up on and also be able to introduce these beautiful places to people who haven't had the opportunity to see them," Melanson said.

Melanson has been holding trail runs in conjunction with First Nations for years on Salt Spring. Another goal is to foster a sense of respect for the traditional history of the island.

"It was really important for me right from the get-go that First Nations were directly involved, and that permission was coming primarily from them and then moving outward from there," Melanson said. "People come over, and especially if it's one of their first time they come to the event, they finish and wonder why everyone isn't doing this."

Throughout the day on Saturday, participants could take part in cedar weaving classes taught by John-Bradley Williams from the Tsawout First Nation. Williams taught two classes, one in the morning for campers, and one in the afternoon for runners.

"It's twofold, we can get everybody fit and they can learn too," Melanson said. "They get the opportunity to learn, recognize and appreciate another level."



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM

Tsawout cedar weaver John-Bradley Williams teaches the first of two weaving classes on Saturday.

SWIMMING

Stingrays succeed at team's first meet

BY ZANDER GLATZ

SS STINGRAYS COACH

The Salt Spring Stingrays had a spicy start to the 2019 summer swimming season in Duncan.

Both new and returning swimmers displayed a remarkable amount of poise tackling new challenges. These challenges included swimming new events, learning how races are started, and getting used to performing in a meet environment. As a group the majority of the team's swims were best times. This is an astonishing achievement, especially for the first meet of the year!

Congratulations to Asher Odurukwe and Jade Marshall for competing in their first ever swim meet. Ruben and Jasper Beerends-Meisner had a strong showing in both the medley and freestyle relays. Many Stingrays competed in the individual medley events for the first time: Renea Hayden, William Harder and Arne Wick

took on the 100 IM while Elyse Walsh, Zoey Oloriz, Matthias Woodley, Cyrus Pollard, Jesse Allan and Ashton Kuypers tackled the demanding 200 IM.

Salt Spring was a force to be reckoned with in the rankings: Druhen Pinney won the boys Division 3 IM 100m with a time of 1:24.53, Jasper Beerends-Meisner placed third in the boys Division 1 50m butterfly with a time of 1:26.57, Aramis St. Gelais placed second in the boys Division 7 50m butterfly with a time of 29.71, Zoe Wickland and Donna De Roo went one two in the girls Division 3 50m breaststroke going 44.25 and 44.27 respectively.

Head coach Brandon Bronson was proud of the team's performance and said, "The Salt Spring Stingrays were brimming with energy throughout the weekend. Between both new and returning swimmers, there was a fresh enthusiasm as all Stingrays displayed their very best for the first meet of the season."



PHOTO COURTESY SS STINGRAYS

Jesse Allen takes his mark during the swim meet in Duncan.



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GOLF

Lefty golfers hold tournament

Dods tournament held, Canada Day 9-hole coming

GOLFTEES

BY MARCIA HOGAN

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Left-handed members of the Salt Spring Golf Club held their annual Dods Tournament on June 9.

Rita Dods was on hand to present the trophy to Drew Stotesbury, who scored a low net 67. Kevin Bell was just a shot behind to take second place. April Wright was the top lady southpaw and Steve Marleau aced the professional division.

All lady golfers are invited to join the annual Canada Day nine-hole scramble on Thursday, June 27. Put on your red and whites and let your

Canuck pride shine.

Now is the time to mark your calendar for the Lady Minto Foundation tournament on July 14. You can register online at www.ladymintofoundation.com.

Tee times are available at 8 a.m., 11 a.m., and 2 p.m., with dinner to follow. This event is a team scramble so golfers of all levels are needed.

The funds raised will help buy new equipment for Lady Minto Hospital.

More information on events, tee times and membership can be found at www.saltspringgolf.com. Download the digital app for online scoring with GPS.

[^]Pricing applies to a new 2019 Subaru Impreza 4-dr Convenience IMT (KF1CP) starting from \$21,645 including freight & PDI (\$1,650). Documentation fee (\$395), tire levy (\$25), air conditioning fee (\$100), taxes, license, registration, and insurance are extra. *0.5%/0.5% lease/finance AFR available on all new 2019 Subaru Impreza models up to a 36/36-month term. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Credit Canada Inc. on approved credit. Vehicles shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers valid until April 30, 2019. Some conditions may apply. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See Jim Pattison Subaru Victoria for complete details. Dealer #40319.